
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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SENATOR GREGG ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR NEW FEDERAL BUILDING AT PEASE MOVES CLOSER TO APPROVAL, CLEARS SENATE

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) announced that with tonight's Senate passage of the Fiscal Year 2004 Transportation, Treasury and General Government Appropriations measure, the General Services Administration is one step closer to providing the resources to purchase land at the Pease International Tradeport and construct a new building for the federal offices currently located in the McIntyre Building in downtown Portsmouth. The bill was approved by the Senate this evening by a vote of 91 to 3, and will now go to a joint House/Senate Conference where any differences with the House of Representatives will be worked out. Language was also included in the measure, announced earlier this fall by Senator Gregg, that will allow the City of Portsmouth to acquire the McIntyre Building in order for its redevelopment. Senator Gregg used his position on the Senate Appropriations Committee to include these provisions in the measure.

The report specifies that the GSA will be authorized to acquire approximately 27 acres at 234 Corporate Drive, Pease International Tradeport to construct a federal building that will house the former tenants of the McIntyre Building. The \$11,149,000 provided in Fiscal Year 2003 for the renovation of the McIntyre Building will be reprogrammed for construction of a new facility, along with a new appropriation of \$13,669,000 for a total cost of \$24,818,000.

Senator Gregg stated, "Today's Senate vote presents moves the development of a new McIntyre Building one step closer to reality. This project is a tremendous opportunity to the City of Portsmouth. The downtown area currently occupied by the McIntyre Federal Building is a valuable location, and whether the City chooses to leave it as open space or occupy it with a variety of retail services, downtown Portsmouth will be positively impacted. The move also speaks to the substantial growth being experienced at the Pease International Tradeport, and the construction of a new federal building at Pease will further its reputation as a valuable commercial location with significant potential for growth. I would like to congratulate the City of Portsmouth, the General Services Administration and everyone who is investing time and energy into making this project a reality."

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Following passage of the bill by the Senate Appropriations Committee in September, Portsmouth Mayor Evelyn Sirrell stated, “Senator Gregg’s leadership role in bringing about the transfer of the McIntyre federal building to the City of Portsmouth gives us an opportunity of a lifetime. Redevelopment of that property will not only bring it back on the tax rolls, but enable us to consider re-use plans that meet a range of local needs. And I promise you that any redevelopment plans for the McIntyre property will involve working very closely with the entire community. In short, Senator Gregg has come through for this City yet again.”

Peter Hamelin, President of the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, stated following Senator Gregg’s initial announcement of the funding, “The Seacoast business community owes a great deal to Senator Gregg for his timely response and leadership in bringing the right people together to come to a win-win compromise on the McIntyre Building proposal. Returning that location to the Portsmouth community will help create a more positive economic and social engine for downtown businesses and the entire seacoast region. As Portsmouth continues to evolve and grow, developing this space to compliment the character of our community will add energy to the downtown environment, providing long-term health for local businesses, enhanced quality of life for residents and enjoyment for visitors to Portsmouth.”

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